BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In	the	Matter	of	the	Accusation	Against:

Case No. 2007-232

KIEN D. CO 1739 20th Avenue Oakland, CA 94606 OAH No.

Registered Nurse License No. 578325,

Respondent.

DECISION AND ORDER

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on February 15, 2008

It is so ORDERED January 15, 2008.

FOR THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1 2 3 4 5 6	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California FRANK H. PACOE Supervising Deputy Attorney General HANNAH H. ROSE, State Bar No. 56276 Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000 San Francisco, CA 94102-7004 Telephone: (415) 703-5515 Facsimile: (415) 703-5480					
7	Attorneys for Complainant					
8						
9	BEFORE THE					
10	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA					
11						
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2007-232				
13	KIEN D. CO	OAH No.				
14	1739 20 th Avenue Oakland, CA 94606	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND				
15	Registered Nurse License No. 578325,	DISCIPLINARY ORDER				
16	Respondent.					
17						
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND	AGREED by and between the parties to the				
19	above-entitled proceedings that the following matters are true:					
20	<u>PARTIES</u>					
21	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H, R.N (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of					
22	the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is					
23	represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California,					
24	by Hannah H. Rose, Deputy Attorney General.					
25	2. Respondent Kien D. Co (Respondent) is represented in this proceeding by					
26	attorney Robert F. Hahn, whose address is 5801 Christie Avenue, Suite 385, Emeryville, CA					
27	94608.					
28	//					

3. On or about March 8, 2001, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nurse License No. 578325 to Kien D. Co (Respondent). The License was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Accusation No. 2007-232 and will expire on April 30, 2007, unless renewed.

JURISDICTION

4. Accusation No. 2007-232 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on March 13, 2007. Respondent timely filed his Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. A copy of Accusation No. 2007-232 is attached as exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, discussed with counsel, and fully understands the charges and allegations in Accusation No. 2007-232. Respondent has also carefully read, discussed with counsel, and fully understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of his legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at his own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against him; the right to present evidence and to testify on his own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

CULPABILITY

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every allegation regarding the underlying facts of Accusation No. 2007-232 as specifically set forth below:
 - a) That on two (2) occasions, once during his September 28, 2004 shift, and once

during his September 29, 2004 shift, in caring for Patient A, Respondent failed to follow the required schedule for finger-stick blood-glucose testing and missed one required test during each of the above shifts;

- b) That on several occasions Respondent failed to document Patient A's Diabetic Record notes as required by the IIP during those two shifts;
- c) That Respondent failed to draw a blood sample and send the same to the lab when Patient A"s blood glucose level dropped below 70 mg/dl., as required by the IIP;
- d) That Respondent failed to call the MD when Patient A's blood glucose level dropped to 64 mg/dl., as required by the IIP.
- 9. The allegations as set forth in Accusation paragraphs 11 and 12 are not admitted and are not deemed true.
- 10. Respondent agrees that his Registered Nurse License is subject to discipline and he agrees to be bound by the Board of Registered Nursing (Board) 's imposition of discipline as set forth in the Disciplinary Order below.

CONTINGENCY

Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent or his counsel. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that he may not withdraw his agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.

OTHER MATTERS

12. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same

force and effect as the originals.

DISCIPLINARY ORDER

In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse, License No. 578325 issued to Respondent Kien D. Co (Respondent) is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

Severability Clause. Each condition of probation contained herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

Criminal Court Orders: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

2. Comply with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully restored.

- 3. **Report in Person.** Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.
- 4. Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State. Periods of residency or practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when he resides outside of California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or returning to practice in this state.

Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where he has ever been licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if he applies for or obtains a new nursing license during the term of probation.

5. Submit Written Reports. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every state and territory in which he has a registered nurse license.

6. Function as a Registered Nurse. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered

nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of his good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation shall apply.

7. **Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment, paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request of the Board.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to his employer and immediate supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after he obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after he is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

8. **Supervision.** Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient care.

Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse

in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are approved.

Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Maximum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.
- (b) Moderate The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.
- (c) Minimum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has person-to-person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.
- (d) Home Health Care If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.
- 9. **Employment Limitations.** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry, in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits are required.

Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses. The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

10. **Complete a Nursing Course(s).** Respondent, at his own expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six months prior to the end of his probationary term.

Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

11. **Cost Recovery.** Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of \$3,000.00. Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than six months prior to the end of the probation term.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of his good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation will apply.

12. **Violation of Probation.** If Respondent violates the conditions of his probation, the Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of Respondent's license.

If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

13. License Surrender. During Respondent's term of probation, if he ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of probation, Respondent may surrender his license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without further hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

- (1) Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any reason other than a mental or physical illness; or
 - (2) One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness.

<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>

I have carefully read the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order and have fully discussed it with my attorney, Robert F. Hahn. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nurse, License. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the

1	Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.
2	DATED: 1087
3	Deoto
4	KIEN D. CO Respondent
5	I have read and fully discussed with Respondent Kien Co the terms and conditions
6	and other matters contained in the above Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I approve
7	its form and content.
8	DATED: 10/8/07.
9	ROBERT F. HAHN
10	Attorney for Respondent
11	
12	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>
13	The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully
14	submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer
15	Affairs.
16	DATED: 10/16/07
17	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California
18	FRANK H. PACOE
19	Supervising Deputy Attorney General
20	Manah M. Res
21	HANNAH H. ROSE Deputy Attorney General
22	
23	Attorneys for Complainant
24	DOJ Matter ID: SF2006400161
25	40173808.wpd
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1	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General of the State of California							
2	FRANK H. PACOE Supervising Deputy Attorney General HANNAH HIRSCH ROSE, State Bar No. 56276 Deputy Attorney General							
3								
4	California Department of Justice 455 Golden Gate Avenue, Suite 11000							
5	San Francisco, CA 4102-7004 Telephone: (415) 703-5515							
6	Facsimile: (415) 703-5480							
7	Attorneys for Complainant							
8	"							
9	BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA							
10								
11	In the Motter of the Acquestion Against.	se No. 2007 - 232						
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against: Ca	CCUSATION						
13	3 1739 20th Avenue	CCUSATION						
14								
15	Registered Nurse License No. 578325,							
16	Respondent.	• .						
17	Complainant alleges:							
18	PARTIES							
19	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. ("Co	omplainant") brings this Accusation						
20	solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the	solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered Nursing,						
21	Department of Consumer Affairs.							
22	2 On or about March 8, 2001, the Boa	ard of Registered Nursing ("Board")						
23	issued Registered Nurse License Number 578325 to Kien D. Co ("Respondent"). The license							
24	will expire on April 30, 2007, unless renewed.							
25	JURISDICTION	<u>JURISDICTION</u>						
26	3. Section 2750 of the Business and Pr	rofessions Code ("Code") provides:						
27	"Every certificate holder or licensee, including licensees holding temporary licenses, or licensees holding licenses placed							
28	in an inactive status, may be disciplined as							

[Article 3 of the Nursing Practice Act (Bus. & Prof Code, § 2700 et seq.)]. As used in this article, 'license' includes certificate, registration, or any other authorization to engage in practice regulated by this chapter. The proceedings under this article shall be conducted in accordance with Chapter 5 (commencing with Section 11500) of Part 1 of Division 3 of Title 2 of the Government Code [the Administrative Procedure Act], and the board shall have all the powers granted therein."

4. Code section 2764 provides:

"The lapsing or suspension of a license by operation of law or by order or decision of the board or a court of law, or the voluntary surrender of a license by a licentiate shall not deprive the board of jurisdiction to proceed with any investigation of or action or disciplinary proceeding against such license, or to render a decision suspending or revoking such license."

STATUTORY PROVISIONS

5. Code section 2761, subdivision (a)(1), provides:

"The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- (a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- (1) Incompetence, or gross negligence in carrying out usual certified or licensed nursing functions."
- 6. Code section 125.3 provides that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

REGULATORY PROVISIONS

7. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1443, provides:

"As used in Section 2761 of the code, 'incompetence' means the lack of possession of or the failure to exercise that degree of learning, skill, care and experience ordinarily possessed and exercised by a competent registered nurse as described in Section 1443.5."

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^{1.} On September 27, 2004, physician orders directed that the intensive insulin protocol be discontinued. The order was reissued on September 28, 2004.

1	Patient "A's" blood-glucose level was apparently decreasing, Respondent failed to follow					
2	intensive insulin protocol procedure by failing to decrease the infusion rate of insulin to					
3	the patient, and by failing to notify the patient's physician of decreases in the patient's					
4	blood-glucose level.					
5	SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE					
6	(Unprofessional Conduct)					
7	12. Respondent's license is subject to discipline for unprofessional conduct					
8	under Code section 2761, subdivision (a), in that on or about September 28 and 29, 2004,					
9	while employed at Kaiser as a registered nurse and assigned to care for Patient "A,"					
10	Respondent committed the acts as set forth under paragraph 11, above.					
11	PRAYER					
12	WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters					
13	herein alleged, and that following the hearing the Board issue a decision:					
14	1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 578325,					
15	issued to Kien D. Co;					
16	2. Ordering Kien D. Co to pay the reasonable costs incurred by the Board					
17	in the investigation and enforcement of this case pursuant to Code section 125.3; and,					
18	3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.					
19						
20	DATED: 22107					
21						
22	Rith Consti					
23	RUTH ANN TERRY, M.P.H., R.N. Executive Officer					
24	Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs					
25	State of California Complainant					
26	oompaniii.					
27	1					

28 Co.Acc.wpd rjt 07/12/06